

Winterport Business Association Meeting
Town Office, Main Street, Winterport, Maine
Wednesday, November 11, 2009

1. Convene Meeting
2. Introductions of People Attending Meeting
3. Accept Minutes of Last Meeting
Of Wednesday, September 9, 2009
4. Treasurer's Report
5. New Business
 - a. Business After Hours Recap – My Thrill Studio
 - b. Girl Scout Cancer Fund Drive
 - c. Vote on WABA's Donating to the Cancer Fund Drive
 - d. Food Pantry
 - e. Brainstorming Session
 - f. 60 Second Spotlight on a Local Business
 - g. Update on Book Celebrating Winterport's 150 Years
6. Old Business
7. Open Table – “Idea Exchange”
8. Next Meeting – Business After Hours Holiday Party
Tammy Higgins' – 239 Main Street
Wednesday, December 9, 2009
6:00 p.m. - ?

The Winterport Area Business Association
Wednesday, November 11, 2009
Town Office, Main Street, Winterport, Maine

Meeting began at 6:00 p.m.

Introductions of those members in attendance were conducted:

Bernie Littlefield, Bel Portraits - President
Jennifer Davis, Play-Date Day Care
Carolyn Wills-Barbari, Community Member
Bret Lowe, Bret's Lawn Care
Mike Thibodeau, TB Equipment
Dustan Larsen, Molly's
Joe Brooks, Town Council
Tammy Higgins, Higgins' Business Services - Treasurer
Phil Higgins, Winterport Resident
Ann Ronco, Old Winterport Commercial House - Secretary
Laurel Coulter, The Clothesline
Deb Newman, Maine Bytes - Vice President
Rob Newman, Maine Bytes

The meeting minutes of Wednesday, September 9, 2009 were read (Note: September's were read due to not having a regular meeting in October.) It was voted on and approved unanimously.

Tammy Higgins presented the Treasurer's Report. At the end of August we had \$678.54. Since then we have spent \$10.00 to advertise in the calendar put out by the Women's Club and dues of \$25.00 were collected leaving a grand total of \$693.54 in the bank account.

Bernie and Ann spoke of the terrific time that was enjoyed by all at My Thrill Studio's Business After Hours in October. It amazed us to see what different things My Thrill Studio does or the different avenues people use their technology for. For instance, a grandmother used their services to record bed time stories on a cd for her grandchildren. Someone else was using their services to get their published books recorded. We also found their services to be extremely reasonable and got some great gift ideas.

Members of Girl Scout Troop #067 attended the meeting to let us know they are putting canisters out at various town businesses to collect money for the Cancer Fund Drive. These canisters can be found at Winterport Pizza, Deb's Variety, JCM Redemption, Molly's, Ridge Runner Veterinary, and My Fork Restaurant. They plan on picking up the canisters mid-December.

Joe Brooks spoke about the Cancer Fund Drive also and gave us an insight as to what the money is going towards. The goal is to raise \$25,000 to purchase an infusion bay for chemotherapy. Previously, people had to drive to Boston to receive such treatment. Those that donate will receive a plaque on the center's donation wall which can name individual businesses or individuals themselves. Right now they have pledges of \$10,000 - 12,000.00 from various communities. Different groups are also raising money for this such as the Wagner School which is selling candy canes and the Smith School which is having a penny drive.

The Drive hopes to meet their goal by around December 16th and at that time hold a candlelight vigil in honor of reaching their goal. Also, Joe informed us that he and Kathy White of the Women's Club will be walking door to door to the businesses over the next month to ask for donations. It was then asked if WABA would be willing to make a donation.

Bernie began by saying that even though it is a great cause, he was concerned because various members feel as if they are constantly being asked for money or donations. Also, if we donate funds to this cause then when do we stop and not give to others. Ann also stated that it was a terrific cause to donate to. However, she was concerned about giving away member's money that they gave to WABA in order to help promote their business and that it was not given to us in order to give to charities. It would also be better for those businesses who want to give to do it on an individual basis so they could take advantage of a tax deduction. Someone made mention they had an issue giving sometimes because once you donate to one organization you seem to get on a solicitation call list for others asking for donations. Someone else said that had happened to them as well, but Joe said the organization had told him they would not be selling donation lists.

It was further discussed that we could make it easier for businesses to donate but letting them know they could drop off donations at our gathering if it was more convenient. Also, we need to get it on the town website, especially for those unaware of this cause. Checks should be made out to Champion The Cure. It was further discussed that WABA would like to encourage their members to participate and donate on an individual basis to this worthy cause.

Laurel spoke of the Food Pantry/ Neighbor's Cupboard at the Calvary Apostolic Church which is located on Rt 1A North in Winterport. Items especially needed this time of year is soup, spaghetti sauce and items for Thanksgiving dinner. People can drop off donations at her business, The Clothesline, in downtown Winterport. For more info on donation items needed, you can call Laurel at 223-4057. Donations can also be dropped off at the food pantry on Wednesday 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.

During our brainstorming session, Bernie stated he would like to get businesses more involved with each other by learning what type of businesses are members have or what it is they actually do. By learning about each others businesses we can see how we can be a sales force for each other. You never know who knows whom and referrals can come from each one of us to benefit each others businesses. Also, because our businesses are so spread out and some people don't have signs for their business, it makes it that much more difficult to get the info out there that your business does exist. It isn't good to assume because you know that you have a business that everyone else knows. WABA wants to help give members the confidence that is needed to sell your business, let people know what it is that you do, and allow people to spend money within Winterport, Frankfort, and Monroe.

A new face joined us, Bret Lowe who owns Bret's Lawn Care. His business does lawn mowing, spring cleanup, mulching for both residential and commercial. His business is located on Haley Road in Winterport.

It was reported by Jennifer that her business, Play-Date Day Care on Twining Road in Winterport has been Nationally Accredited. Very few day cares receive this accreditation. She was congratulated by all.

Business of the Month was picked at random and it was JCM Redemption. They will be highlighted on the website and their name placed on the reader board downtown. Congratulations to them.

There will be no monthly meeting in December since we will be having the Business After Hours. This is to take place at Higgins' Business Services at 239 Main Street, Winterport from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 9. All business AND general public are welcome to attend.

Our next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 13, 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.